

Bird Watcher's Birds

Story by Greg Faherty

Photos by Art Melgier

AFTER watching birds as a hobby for more than 40 years, Ellen J. Windsor of 144 Jewett Pky. finds that making ceramic replicas of warblers is a lark. She has made hundreds of prototypes of such species as the American goldfinch, red-headed woodpecker, great blue heron, canvas-back duck and scarlet tanager, to cite but a few.

Miss Windsor began her hobby of making ceramic birds about eight years ago. She figured it would help her to better identify the many types in her bird watching. They turned out so well her friends asked that she make them some. Miss Windsor has sold many of her works, hopes to supplement her retirement income by sale of more. She retired last October as head of the information desk at the YWCA, 190 Franklin St., where she was an employe for 25 years.

Miss Windsor is a member of the Audubon Society and the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Her years of bird watching plus her adept craftsmanship enable her to achieve reproductions that are authentically correct in color and proportion.

Each tiny replica is carefully modeled, then allowed to dry for several days. Sanded, then underglazed, the bird model is fired in an electric kiln at 1700 degrees. After cooling the model is glazed, then fired once more. For added realism, Miss Windsor mounts the ceramic birds on simulated tree stumps or branches. **CONTINUED**



BIRD MODEL is allowed to dry for three or four days, then sanded to smoothness. After mounting it on a tree stump, Miss Windsor coats the entire object with an underglaze.